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HAWAII'S ELECTIONS

Sereno Bishop Writes of Their Lessons.

LEGISLATURE'S PROBLEMS

A Letter in the Washington Star by the Well-Known Honolulu Editor.

Our community was enabled a few days ago to rejoice in Mr. McKinley's 294 electoral votes. Among our white people there is an overwhelming Republican sentiment. This is proved by the fact that every one of our four, eight and twelve-page dailies is Republican. Only one English paper is Democratic, and that is a little seven-by-nine affair. There are half a dozen native Hawaiian weekly papers, only one of which is Republican. The rest are "Independent," or anti-foreign, one only being Democratic.

Our elections two weeks ago resulted as my letters have prophesied. Robert Wilcox was chosen delegate to Congress by 3,263 votes to 3,025 for Samuel Parker, Republican, and 2,013 for Prince David, Democratic. Of the fifteen members of the Senate the Independents have elected eight, the Republicans six and the Democrats one. Of the thirty representatives the Independents chose fifteen, the Republicans eight and the Democrats seven. As the Democrats will vote on most questions with the Independents rather than with the Republicans the latter are likely to be in a small minority.

The Republicans represent the great majority, undoubtedly three-fourths, of the white vote; a very good number of natives also voting with them. The Independent votes were almost exclusively by native, very few whites voting that ticket, such being chiefly persons married to native wives. The Democratic vote was also chiefly native, although including many whites. Most of the natives who voted the Democratic ticket would otherwise have voted for Wilcox, but felt that they were acting and testifying in behalf of royalty by voting for Prince David and for the party who, through President Cleveland, espoused the cause of the ex-queen. The queen herself seems to have avoided taking any openly active part. It is generally believed that Liliuokalani privately favored Wilcox instead of her nephew, Prince David, whom she very rightly deemed "too young."

RESENTMENT OF THE NATIVES.

As I have already set forth, the native vote and the "Independent Home Rule" party is intended as an emphatic expression of resentment at the seizure of the Government nearly eight years ago by the whites and at the throwing down of the native Hawaiian sovereignty, as embodied in a Hawaiian monarch. This sentiment, which pervades the native mind, was energetically played upon by Wilcox and his associates. It was also strongly appealed to by the Democratic leaders, Carter and Macfarlane, who were the leading white Democratic candidates, having been former strong partisans of the ex-queen, made this sentiment the chief basis of their tirades against the Republicans.

It should be fully understood in Washington that Wilcox represents the native Hawaiians and not the American element in Hawaii; also that he has been elected by the natives to express their hostility and resentment toward the domination of the foreign Government under which they have passed. His ascendancy among them is due wholly to his having been the most conspicuous supporter of royalty in a military way and his having been the leader in a series of insurrectionary movements against white domination. He had not the slightest success in any of these attempts, which were all efforts to carry the day by unexpected surprises, humbly conducted. At the dethronement of the queen, when the whites initiated the military movement and the natives were on the defensive, Wilcox in his terror sided with the whites so far as he took a part. Two years after, however, he sided with an insurrection organized by others, and after being ignominiously defeated suffered some imprisonment, which helped to make him appear a hero. Although he received some military education in Italy, where he had been sent by the late King Kalakaua, his successive actions have evinced a great lack both of ability and courage. Nevertheless he has been able to pose among the very childish Hawaiian natives as a hero and a "Garibaldi."

Toward Wilcox personally there is no feeling of animosity among the whites. The sentiment toward him is one of ridicule rather than of detestation. This is the feeling of the whole of the business and industrial activity of Hawaii. He is not credited with any mental capacity to represent our public interests, which have assumed commanding proportions. He has been chosen by a weak and puerile constituency, excluding the intelligent minority of the natives—by a constituency incapable of understanding or estimating the vigorous and enterprising civilization which is in possession of these Islands. He has always been regarded as a rather incapable and innocuous nonentity, an object of derision rather than of antipathy, while his domestic relations have placed him socially beneath notice.

WILCOX'S SUCCESS AN OBJECT LESSON.

Such as he is, however, Mr. Wilcox is the delegated representative of the Territory of Hawaii upon the floor of Congress. While he is manifestly incapable of adequately presenting our needs, or of commanding the respectful attention of Congress, we may hope in other ways to secure some proper regard for our necessities. One good may be hoped for from such a delegate, if not to Hawaii itself, yet perhaps to other dependencies of the United States. He may serve as a useful object lesson on the

floor of Congress. That body will have exhibited before it day by day the natural result of committing, by unlimited suffrage, the weighty concerns of this Territory to the decisions of the childish and incompetent mass of the native Hawaiians, instead of to a somewhat selected body of voters chosen from among them and the superior capable white race. It is likely to furnish useful study to Congress as to what is wise and proper distribution of suffrage among weak populations and undeveloped races.

The Congress of the United States has before it a protracted and arduous task—that of organizing such degree of liberal government as may be practicable in Porto Rico and the Philippines, where the great majority of the population are in depressed condition, mentally and morally, and among whom there has been no experience of representative government. The principle of "manhood suffrage," which evidently possessed the minds of representatives when last spring they legislated for Hawaii in a manner contrary to the wise recommendations of the committee sent here, may be quite applicable to such communities of adult males as generally possess a good degree of personal manhood. Unfortunately a majority of adult Hawaiian males are but children in thought and volition, as we who are acquainted with them too well know. The same is undoubtedly true of the people of the Philippines. When representative institutions are sought to be established there, unless the suffrage is rigidly restricted to such persons as have verified their manhood by practical success in life those institutions will be a failure.

Working in a new field and upon new conditions, American statesmen, with all their national shrewdness, are likely to make many serious mistakes. Like other men, they must learn by experience. If they shall gain some of that experience at the cost of Hawaii's interests, by observing the qualities of Mr. Wilcox, who is the early fruit of their legislation in our behalf, Hawaii must content herself with becoming thus of a slight public service.

PROBLEM BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE.

We have, however, a more serious problem to meet in the coming Legislature chosen by the same incompetent constituency. The personnel of the members elected does not augur well for their performance. A majority of them appear to be pledged to a movement to refuse confirmation to the officials appointed by Governor Dole. We can only hope that they may prove amenable to discussion from so extreme a measure. There is much very important legislation waiting to be attended to after a three years' interval, and some of the needed measures call for a very wise and careful discussion, such as the great proportion of the newly elected statesmen are quite incompetent to apply.

On the other hand, Hawaii has long conducted its legislation with good success under a system of very restricted suffrage. Precedents of action are well established. So many are accustomed to handle the machinery of legislation that some useful work may hope to be ground out. I am sorry to say that in former days the less reputable character of the legislators, especially under the late Kalakaua, the more amenable they were found to be to private influences, where prices were by no means high. The Chinese were found to have a special aptitude in applying such motives. It will not be strange if our coming Legislature should be largely handled by such methods.

CITY GOVERNMENT OF HONOLULU.

The subject of municipal government promises to be a very serious one. Up to this time we have had no municipalities whatever. Everything has been done by the central government. All concede that Honolulu, with its nearly 50,000 people, is in great need of incorporation as a city, with its own local government. At the same time, all owners of property here extremely dread the day when officials chosen by the great rabble of irresponsible natives shall exercise the power of levying taxes and expending money. The coming municipal government is to be organized by this Legislature with its majority of incompetent and unprincipled men, who would reject with scorn any advice from our executive. The prospect is not a pleasant one.

THE WEATHER.

The exceptionally hot summer here has been succeeded by unusually heavy rains during the past six weeks. The rain was deluging on the Island of Maui. Being accompanied by a violent gale, there was some destruction of property. It was more of a storm than has occurred in these parts for many years. You know that our group is absolutely exempt from anything like a hurricane or typhoon, just as we are exempt from the extreme heats of the tropics, or even your Washington summer heats.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

It is a pleasure to note the practical success of the wireless Marconi telegraph between our islands. The "experts" have been for several months at work installing the stations upon the different islands, but seemed to have encountered serious obstacles. Mr. Marconi finally sent out a special expert named Gray, who immediately discovered the cause, which was one hardly creditable to the other men. It was simply that their ground wires were inadequately connected with moist ground reaching to the sea. Excellent communication was speedily established across the first channel of forty miles. It will, however, be some little time before the system goes into practical operation. Some of the stations have to be removed to points nearer to the sea. There seems to be no doubt that by February next we shall enjoy perfect telegraphic communication from Honolulu to Hilo, across three sea channels.

THE STAR'S EDITORIAL.

Intelligent Hawaii is somewhat reconciled to the prospect of being represented in Congress by an adventurer like Wilcox, who has just been elected, when it reflects that perhaps the United States may be afforded a valuable object lesson which will guide it in framing suffrage legislation for the other new dependencies. Wilcox's status in Hawaii is clearly pointed out by "Kamehameha," the Star's Honolulu correspondent, in the course of his latest letter, printed today. He shows how thoroughly unrepresentative the delegate is of the enlightened sentiment of the Islands, how reactionary his presence in the House of Representatives really will be. For Wilcox will stand as the protest of a portion of the more ignorant natives against annexation, an accomplished fact, never to be changed. This futile role repre-

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